

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 00421 091926Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /080 W  
-----100163 092101Z /72

R 091850Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9735  
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL GENOA  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
AMCONSUL PALERMO  
AMCONSUL TRIESTE POUCH  
AMCONSUL TURIN POUCH  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IT, UR  
SUBJECT: PCI DELEGATION VISITS THE USSR

1. THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) DAILY L'UNITA REPORTED ON JANUARY 7 THE DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW THE PREVIOUS DAY OF A FIVE MAN PARTY DELEGATION. PCI SECRETARIAT MEMBER GIANNI CERVETTI, WHO IS ALSO CHIEF OF THE PARTY'S ORGANIZATIONAL SECTION, IS LEADING THE DELEGATION. OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS ARE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAURIZIO FERRARA, ANDREA MARGHERI, AND BRUNO FERERO IN ADDTION TO BERNARDINO BERNARDINI OF THE PCI FOREIGN SECTION.

2. L'UNITA INDICATES THAT THE VISIT IS BEING MADE AT THE INVITATION OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE  
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PAGE 02 ROME 00421 091926Z

OF "DEEPENING THE AWARENESS AND THE STUDY OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN THE PRESENT PHASE OF SOVIET LIFE."  
IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIREIES, PCI HEADQUARTERS IS REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZING THE ECONOMIC NATURE OF THE VISIT.

3. COMMENT. WE SUSPECT THAT THERE IS MORE TO THE VISIT THAN MEETS THE EYE. IF THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE

DELEGATION'S TRAVEL WERE TO EXAMINE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUBJECTS, WE WOULD HAVE ANTICIPATED THAT ONE OF THE PCI'S ECONOMIC HEAVIES (NAPOLITANO, BARCA OR PEGGIO) WOULD HAVE LED THE DELEGATION RATHER THAN CERVETTI. ON THE OTHER HAND, CERVETTI, WITH A SOVIET EDUCATION AND A SOVIET WIFE, HAS LONG BEEN RUMORED TO BE AMONG THOSE IN THE PCI LEADERSHIP CONSIDERED FRIENDLIER TO THE USSR AND MORE ACCEPTABLE AS INTERLOCUTORS BY THE CPSU LEADERSHIP. ACCORDINGLY, WE DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE TIMING OF THE VISIT OF THE PCI DELEGATION AND THE INCLUSION OF CERVETTI AS ITS LEADER WERE CAREFULLY SELECTED SO AS TO PROVIDE THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP WITH AN UP-TO-DATE AND INSIDE ASSESSMENT OF THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION AS SEEN BY THE PCI. FINALLY, WE WOULD NOTE THAT CERVETTI VISITED MOSCOW IN JANUARY 1977 FOR TALKS WITH CPSU LEADERS. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO ITALY, PCI LEADERS MADE A SERIES OF PRONOUNCEMENTS DEEMED TO BE MORE HARD LINE IDEOLOGICALLY AND LESS CRITICAL OF THE USSR. THIS LED SOME OBSERVERS TO SPECULATE THAT CERVETTI HAD STRUCT A DEAL WITH THE SOVIETS IN WHICH THE PCI TONED DOWN ITS CRITICISM OF SOVIET SOCIETY AND THE SOVIETS REFRAINED FROM ATTACKING PCI DOMESTIC POLITICAL ACTIONS. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL LEADER, POLITICAL PARTY, TEXT ON MICROFILM ONLY, VISITS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** ACCESSION #D780013-0784 REMOVED FROM SYSTEM, TEXT UPGRADED PER MEMO P900091-0814  
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**Subject:** PCI DELEGATION VISITS THE USSR  
**TAGS:** PINT, IT, UR, (BERNARDINI, BERNARDINO), (CERVETTI, GIANNI), (FERRARA, MAURIZIO), (MARGHERI, ANDREA), (FERERO, BRUNO)  
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